

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 15889 172345Z
ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 A-01 H-02 /015 W
----- 051181 /73

P R 172303Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9261
INFO AMCONSULATE NUEVO LAREDO

UNCLAS MEXICO 15889

ALSO PASS TO A - MRS. HESS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CPRS, MX (BONNET, BEN)
SUBJ: PIPER CHEROKEE N-1548-X, BELONGING TO BEN BONNET)

1. CCS CHIEF HAD APPOINTMENT THIS MORNING TO TALK WITH SENATOR ELISEO MENDOZA BERRUETO ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SENATOR'S INTERVENING WITH CUSTOMS IN BEHALF OF MR. BONNET. THE SENATOR FAILED TO KEEP THE APPOINTMENT, BUT HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE MATTER. HE SAID THAT SENATOR GUSTAVO GUERRA CASTANAS, ACTING FOR BOTH SENATORS, HAD EXPLAINED TO THE UNDER SECRETARY OF HACIENDA THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE PRESENCE OF MR. BONNET'S PLANE IN MEXICO, AND HAD BEEN PROMISED THAT THE UNDER SECRETARY WOULD LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF RETURNING THE PLANE.

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY SAID THAT JESUS RAMON, JR., WHO APPARENTLY ORGANIZED THE FLIGHT WHICH ENDED WITH THE DETENTION OF MR. BONNET'S PLANE, HAD SPOKEN WITH REYES RETANA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS (NOW UNDER SECRETARY OF HACIENDA), AND HAD ALSO BEEN PROMISED CONSIDERATION. BOTH OF THESE CONVERSATIONS TOOK PLACE SHORTLY BEFORE THE CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION IN MEXICO.
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2. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP WITH CUSTOMS AND HACIENDA BUT, BECAUSE OF THE NUMEROUS CHANGES OF PERSONNEL IN THESE AGENCIES AND THE HOLIDAYS, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT MUCH CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.
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